Phelps and Pulaski County Towersites

Dixon Towersite
Fort Leonard Wood Towersite
Rosati Towersite

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan
FY 2015-2029

Lisa G. Allen   7-8-15
Forestry Division Chief   Date

Phelps and Pulaski County Towersites Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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OZARK REGION

Ozark RCT Chair

_____   _____
                Signature   Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Unit Chief

_____   _____
                Signature   Date

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Date Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Dixon Towersite	4904	1949	48	Pulaski	Forestry	Forestry
Fort Leonard Wood Towersite	4622	1946	66.66	Pulaski	Forestry	Forestry
Rosati Towersite	4710	1947	92	Phelps	Forestry	Forestry

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

These areas were obtained and are currently maintained primarily for wildfire detection purposes. These towers have significant historical value.

B. Desired Future Condition

Maintain structural integrity of these towers to ensure the safety of Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) fire lookout personnel. Manage surrounding forests to ensure healthy, sustainable forest resources.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. **Special Considerations**

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Dixon Towersite	Maries River Priority Watershed, Tavern Creek Priority Watershed	None
Fort Leonard Wood Towersite	Big Piney Breaks Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), Priority Forest Landscape	None
Rosati Towersite	Woodson K. Woods COA, Dry Fork Priority Watershed, Priority Forest Landscape	None

II.   Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Dixon Towersite	None observed	None	None
Fort Leonard Wood Towersite	None observed	None	None
Rosati Towersite	None observed	None	None

III.   Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Lakes/Ponds	Other
Dixon Towersite	None	Fire tower (built in 1956, 90' tall), locked gate at entrance
Fort Leonard Wood Towersite	1 fishless pond	Fire tower (built in 1955, 90' tall), radio tower and building, locked gate at entrance
Rosati Towersite	None	Fire tower (built in 1947, 50' tall), locked gate at entrance

IV.   Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area Name	Deed Restric-tions	Federal Interest	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Dixon Towersite	None	Yes[1]	Yes[2]	None	None	None
Fort Leonard Wood Towersite	None	Yes[1]	Yes[2]	None	None	None
Rosati Towersite	None	Yes[1]	Yes[2]	None	None	None

[1]Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

[2]The Dixon, Fort Leonard Wood and Rosati Towersites may all be considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and are therefore considered historic. Records kept with the Department Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Practices for Cultural Resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V.   **Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations**

Challenges and Opportunities:
Managing forests around the towers.

Management Objective 1: Manage forests.
Strategy 1: Assess forests for health and implement practices to maintain forest condition and health. Practices may include timber harvests, timber stand improvement, prescribed fire, use of herbicides etc. (Forestry)

VI.   **Aquatic Resource Management Considerations**

Challenges and Opportunities:
Maintaining fishless pond.

Management Objective 1: Monitor fishless pond at Fort Leonard Wood Towersite for health concerns and longevity.
Strategy 1: Visually inspect pond for health and longevity concerns. (Forestry)
Strategy 2: Repair any issue found that could jeopardize the health and longevity of the pond. (Forestry)

VII.   **Public Use Management Considerations**

Challenges and Opportunities:
1) Recurring vandalism to the towers.
2) Conducting routine maintenance.

Management Objective 1: Reduce/eliminate vandalism.
Strategy 1: Maintain an appropriate level of law enforcement presence through cooperation with Protection Division and other local law enforcement agencies. (Forestry, Protection)

Management Objective 2: Routinely maintain the towersites.
Strategy 1: Continue routine maintenance according to policy and need. (Forestry)

VIII. <u>**Administrative Considerations**</u>

Challenges and Opportunities:
Ensuring safety of Department fire lookout personnel.

Management Objective 1: Ensure structural integrity of the towers.
Strategy 1: Conduct annual inspection of the structural integrity of each tower by qualified personnel. (Forestry)
Strategy 2: Department personnel will visually inspect condition of the towers on a regular basis. (Forestry)

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Maps:
Appendix 1. Dixon Towersite Background
Appendix 2. Dixon Towersite Map
Appendix 3. Fort Leonard Wood Towersite Background
Appendix 4. Fort Leonard Wood Towersite Map
Appendix 5. Rosati Towersite Background
Appendix 6. Rosati Towersite Map
Appendix 7: Phelps and Pulaski County Towersites Area Management Plan Public Comments

Public Input Summary:
The draft Phelps and Pulaski County Towersites Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period February 1–28, 2015. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from two respondents (Appendix A). The Phelps and Pulaski County Towersites Area Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

Department responses to themes and issues identified through Phelps and Pulaski County Towersites public comment period

Values and supports the preservation and maintenance of the fire towers.
This comment is addressed in sections VII and VIII.

Requests more signs indicating that firearms deer hunting is not permitted at the Rosati Towersite.
Will continue to maintain and possibly increase signage as well as work with Protection staff on enforcement.

Appendix 1. Dixon Towersite Background

The towersite has a locked gate at the entrance. The rest of the area is open to appropriate public use and state regulations apply.
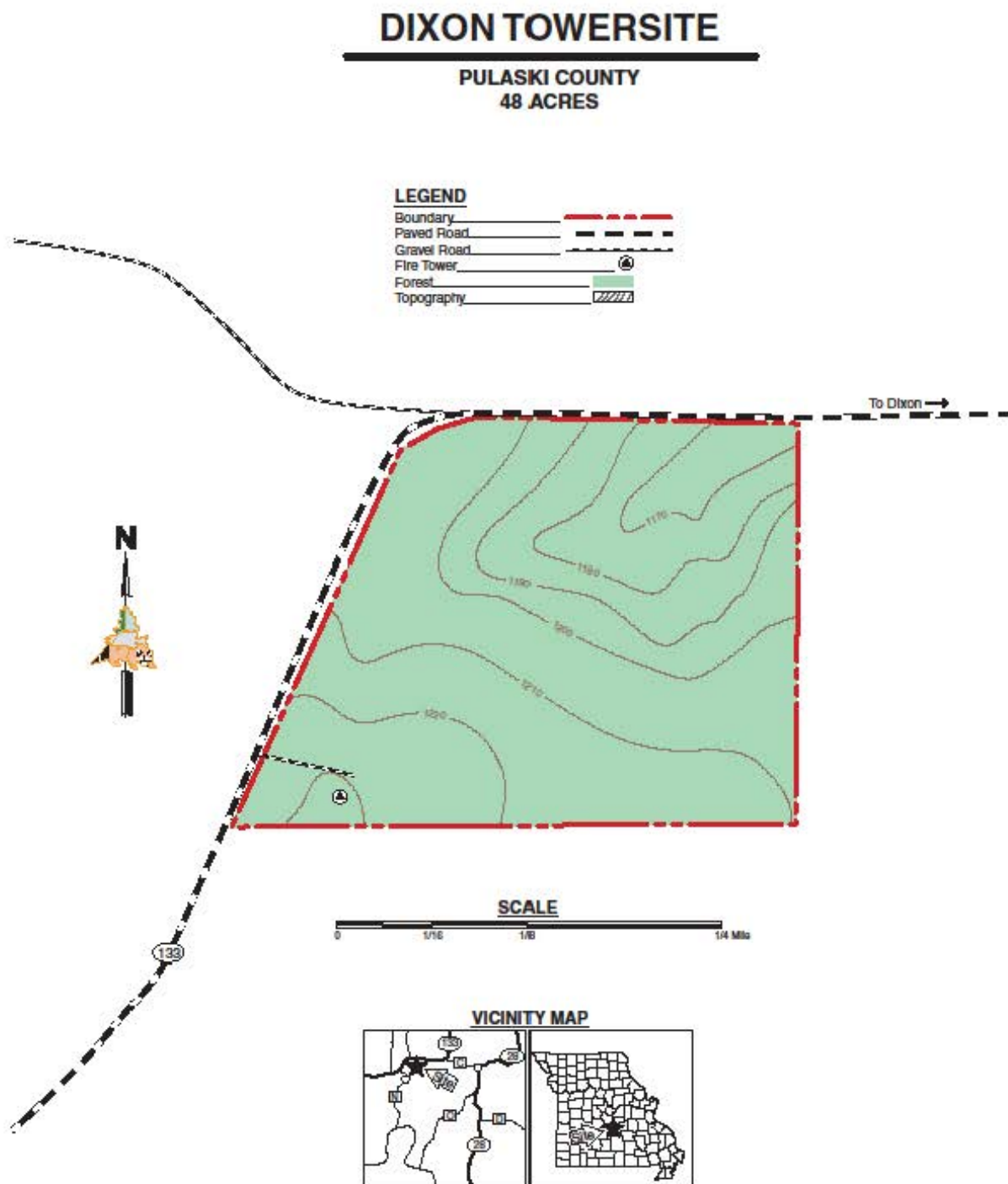
Legal Description: Township 38 North, Range 11 West, Section 229.

Area Location: Dixon Towersite is located approximately 3 miles west of Dixon on Highway 133.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest	47	98
Open Land	1	2
Total	**48**	**100**

Appendix 2. Dixon Towersite Map

DIXON TOWERSITE

PULASKI COUNTY
48 ACRES

LEGEND

Boundary	
Paved Road	
Gravel Road	
Fire Tower	
Forest	
Topography	

To Dixon →

N

SCALE

0   1/16   1/8   1/4 Mile

VICINITY MAP

Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri © 05/13

Appendix 3. Fort Leonard Wood Towersite Background

The towersite has a locked gate at the entrance. The rest of the area is open to appropriate public use and state regulations apply. Special regulations include archery-only deer hunting; hunting with firearms firing a single projectile is prohibited.
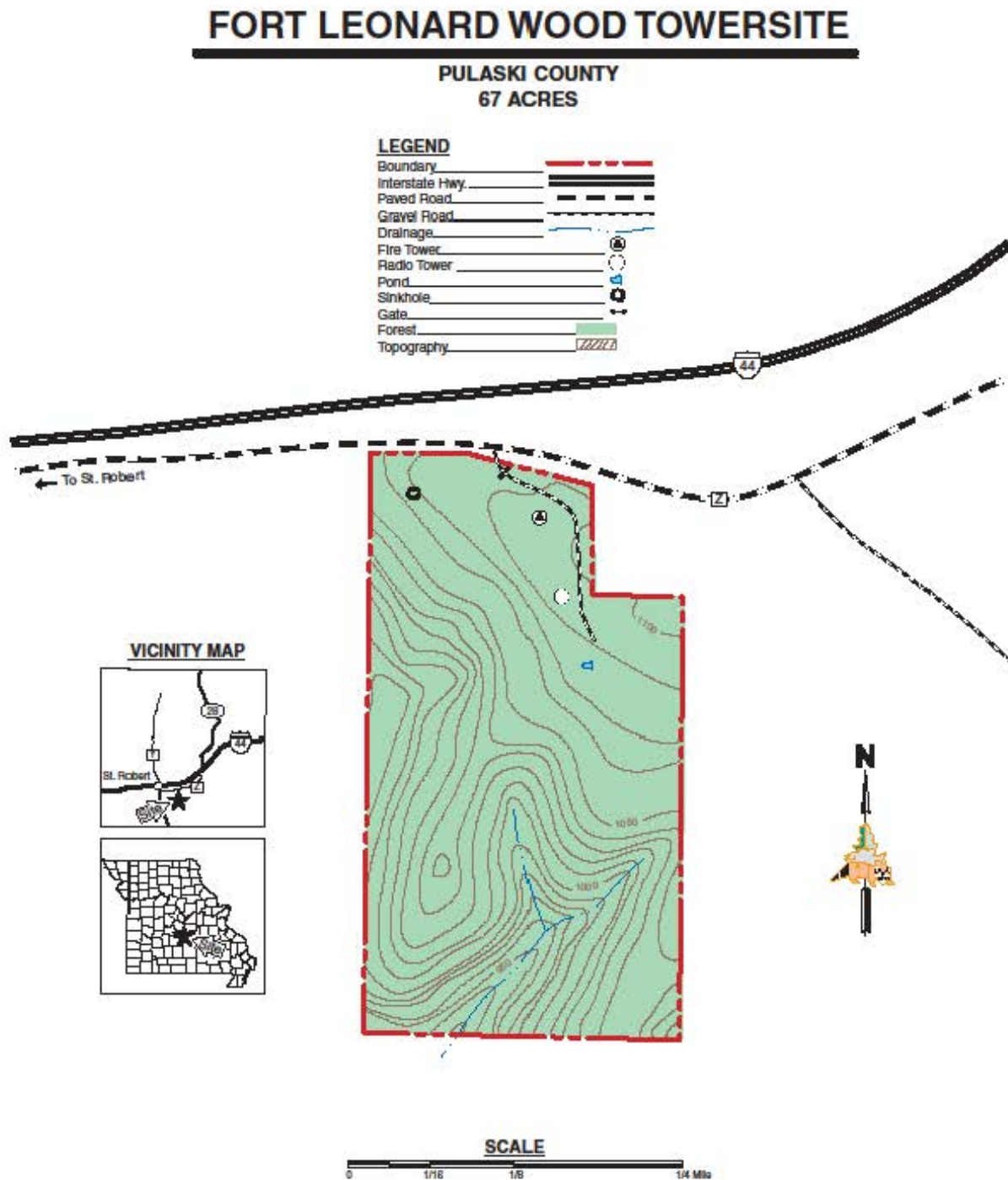
Legal Description: Township 36 North, Range 11 West, Section 27.

Area Location: Fort Leonard Wood Towersite is located approximately 1 mile east of St. Robert on the southbound outer road of I-44.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest	65.56	98.3
Open Land	1	1.5
Pond	0.1	0.2
Total	**66.66**	**100**

Appendix 4. Fort Leonard Wood Towersite Map

FORT LEONARD WOOD TOWERSITE

PULASKI COUNTY
67 ACRES

LEGEND
Boundary
Interstate Hwy.
Paved Road
Gravel Road
Drainage
Fire Tower
Radio Tower
Pond
Sinkhole
Gate
Forest
Topography

VICINITY MAP

← To St. Robert

SCALE
0   1/16   1/8   1/4 Mile

N

Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri © 12/07

Appendix 5. Rosati Towersite Background

The towersite has a locked gate at the entrance. The rest of the area is open to appropriate public use and state regulations apply.
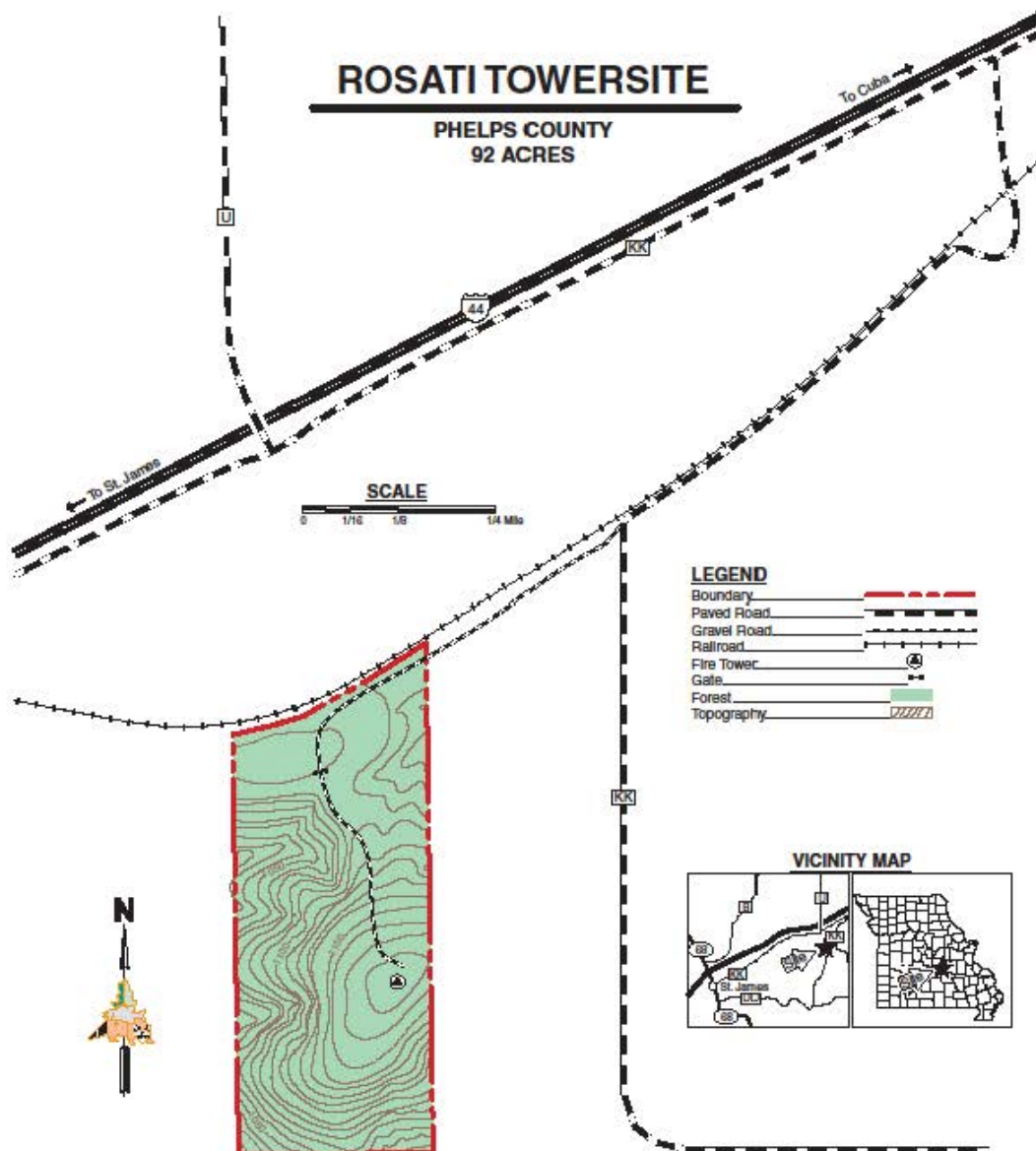
Legal Description: Township 38 North, Range 06 West, Sections 12 and 13.

Area Location: Rosati Towersite is 0.5 miles southwest of Rosati on Route KK.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest	90	98
Open Land	2	2
Total	**92**	**100**

Appendix 6. Rosati Towersite Map

ROSATI TOWERSITE
PHELPS COUNTY
92 ACRES

Appendix 7. Phelps and Pulaski County Towersites Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2015)

Hello,
I was glad to read in the report of the continued maintenance of the tower sites and the possibility of placing them on the National Registry of Historic Places. I've always been a fan of the fire towers and love what they represent to forestry protection, management and fire prevention. I would please encourage the continued support and preservation of these historic symbols that go hand-in-hand with the very ideals of conservation.

Keep up the great work!

I purchased property 5 years ago and have not yet been able to cut or eradicate tall grass and thistles in some areas adjacent to the Rosati Towersite. I would love assistance to safely conduct a control burn near the edge of the conservation areas short leaf pine stand, which I believe would mitigate vulnerability from a fire emanating from the overgrowth during a dry period. My plan is to replace overgrown tall fescue and wild blackberry thickets with buffalo grass, legumes, and chokeberries (aronia). Also, we need more visual guidance (signs) for users that firearms deer hunting is not permitted at the Rosati Site .Ocassionally, individualls are confused in this regard.